



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
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1617 S Industrial Way #1
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-7090



February 18, 2026

Dear Members of the Newhalen School Local School Advisory Committee, the Newhalen Iliamna Youth Activities Club, and Principal Lester,

Thank you for your correspondence and resolutions regarding student activities funding. This letter serves as a collective response to the Newhalen School LSAC Resolution dated December 3, 2025, and the NIYAC resubmission letter dated December 7, 2025, following the original submission of October 15, 2025.

The Lake and Peninsula School District values the engagement of advisory committees and community organizations in advocating for student opportunities. We recognize the shared intent reflected in both resolutions to support student participation, engagement, and access to meaningful extracurricular activities.

LPSD serves nine brick-and-mortar schools, each with distinct enrollment levels, geographic realities, and access to local resources. While student enrollment is one factor used to allocate student activities funding, the district must take a broader, equity-based approach. While we cannot divide resources in a way that makes everything numerically equal across all sites, we do strive as a district to uplift each school in making our decisions as equitable as possible.

Equity does not mean providing identical resources to every school; rather, it requires allocating resources in a way that accounts for differences in need, access, and opportunity so that students across all schools are supported fairly. We always have to keep in mind the health of each individual school while balancing the overall health of our district. If we were to allocate funding based solely on student population, we would risk taking from sites that already operate with limited access and resources. In this time of financial stress, we must continue to work as a regional community and provide for all schools as responsibly and thoughtfully as we can.

We also recognize that perceptions across communities matter. At times, there are concerns voiced from various sites about how resources are distributed. It is important that we remain mindful of those perspectives and ensure transparency in how decisions are made. Our responsibility is to look at the district as a whole and to make decisions that support long-term sustainability and opportunity for every student, in every community.



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It is also important to clarify the role of recent financial arrangements supporting Newhalen student activities. Since September 2022, the district has paid \$133,451.50 to NIYAC Inc. for invoiced meal services associated with school-related activities. These funds originated from LPSD and were provided in support of students and activities at a time when this arrangement met an operational need. While this support benefited students, it also resulted in additional district-funded resources being directed to Newhalen that were not available to other schools.

Additionally, events hosted at Newhalen, including sports competitions, jamborees, in-services, and trainings, bring indirect financial benefit to the school and broader community. While these revenues do not come directly from district allocations, they contribute to local programming through concessions, store activity, and related fundraising efforts. These opportunities are valuable and represent another layer of support that not all sites have equal access to.

LPSD has corrected this practice and transitioned meal service back to the district for school-based events, allowing meals to be provided at a lower cost and ensuring greater consistency and equity across all schools.

In alignment with the recommendations outlined in both resolutions, the district recognizes that student activities and athletics programming would benefit from a renewed, districtwide review. This review will allow LPSD to intentionally examine enrollment trends, participation levels, geographic considerations, event-hosting capacity, and existing supports across all nine schools. Our goal is to dedicate focused time and capacity to ensuring student activities programming is equitable, sustainable, transparent, and responsive moving forward.

We appreciate the advocacy demonstrated by the Newhalen School LSAC and NIYAC Inc. and look forward to continued collaboration centered on supporting students throughout the Lake and Peninsula School District. Our shared priority remains the same: providing meaningful opportunities for students across all of our communities.

Sincerely,

Kasie Luke

Superintendent